



THE OFFICE OF AGRICULTURE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

Jeremy V. Criss
Director

May 1, 2023

TO: Marc Elrich, County Executive
Montgomery County

FROM: Jeremy Criss, Director
Office of Agriculture

SUBJECT: 2023 Appointments to the Agricultural Advisory Committee-AAC

On April 5, 2023, the Executive Staff released an announcement for new appointments to serve on the Agricultural Advisory Committee-AAC. Due to delays in releasing announcements to serve on the AAC, for the first time the CE will need to act on the status of all 15 members at the same time.

There are three farmer members (Pete Driscroll, Patrick Jamison, and Eleanor Leak) where their second terms expired several years ago and all three of these farmers are requesting a waiver for a third term because they want to continue serving on the AAC. Due to the delays in releasing the announcements, the third term for these farmers will expire this coming December 2023.

The Office of Agriculture works to recruit farmer representatives on the County Boards and Committees listed below that specifically require agricultural representatives.

Agricultural Advisory Committee	12 farmers
Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board	3 farmers
Montgomery Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors	3 farmers
Water Quality Advisory Group	1 Ag Rep
Rustic Roads Advisory Committee	3 farmers
Forest Conservation Advisory Committee	1 Ag Rep
Montgomery Weed Control, Inc.	6 farmers
Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Directors	15 Ag Rep
Montgomery Agricultural Producers	N/A

Finding farmers that have the time to serve, meet the income requirements, are willing to serve, and are equipped with effective group dynamic skills, continues to be a challenge in the County. Considering this environment, the Office of Agriculture recommends your support to grant

waivers to the three farmers members listed above to serve on the AAC for a third term. This OAG recommendation is made with the understanding that since these third terms for these three farmers will expire this coming December 2023, you will subsequently grant in 2024, upon the request from these three farmers, to serve a fourth term that will enable them to continue serving on the AAC until December 2026.

Please let us know if you have any questions.